THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) For the development of Highways, the Central Road Fund Act 2000 has already been enacted. The Act provides for collection of cess of Re. 1/- per litre on petrol and diesel and crediting of proceeds of cess first to consolidated fund of India and after approval of Parliament to the Central Road Fund. The funds available from CRF will be utilized for the development and maintenance of National Highways, State roads, safety works on rail-road crossings and for rural roads.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. So far 21 road/bridge projects under the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme involving an investment of about Rs. 1832 crore have been undertaken.

(e) Government has already taken a number of facilitating measures to promote private sector participation in the development and maintenance of national highways which include various incentives in the form of tax concession, duty free import of specified equipment, capital grant, permitting Foreign Direct Investment and external commercial borrowings.

Bicycle Lanes along the Highways

2714. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to propose bicycle lanes in India along the highways on the lines of China, where use of bicycle is very popular;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) This Ministry is mainly responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only which mostly pass through non-urban areas where generally the requirement of bicycle lanes is not there.

Financing of NHDP from World Bank and ADB

2715. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan country is likely to get from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for Financing National Highways Development Projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that the development/construction work of highways

connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Assam is going as per the schedule; and

(c) if so, by when these highways are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Two loans from World Bank of US $ 516 million and US $ 589 million have been signed so far. Asian Development Bank has already provided a loan of US $ 180 million and US $ 240 million has been negotiated. Thus total financing of US $ 1525 million, roughly equivalent to Rs. 7200 crore has been firmed up so far.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Golden Quadrilateral component is targeted for completion by December 2003 and North-South and East-West corridors by December 2007.

Patna-Darbhanga Highway

†2716. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Patna-Darbhanga *via* Muzaffarpur Highway has been declared as National Highway; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in starting the work and by when the National Highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir. The Highway from Patna to Darbhanga *via* Muzaffarpur is already part of National Highway network. The portion Patna-Hajipur is part of NH-19, Hazipur Muzaffarpur is part of NH-77 and Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga is part of NH-57.

(b) Development of National Highways is continuous process. Of 11 works costing Rs. 25.78 crores sanctioned for development of this highway, 6 works costing Rs. 10.16 crores have since been completed and remaining 5 works are in progress on various stretches.

National Highway Development Project

2717. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether consturction work of National Highways Development Projects consisting of two main components Golden Quadrilateral and North-South-East-West is going on as per the schedule;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.